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Docket No. GER-100XC1  
Serial No. 09/636,185Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 9-11, 28 and 31 were previously pending in the subject application. By this amendment, the applicants have amended claim 1 and have canceled claims 5, 28 and 31. No new subject matter has been added by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9-11 are now before the Examiner for her consideration. The amendments and claim cancellations set forth herein should not be interpreted to indicate that the applicants have agreed with, or acquiesced to, the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

The applicant's wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5, rewritten in independent form would be allowable. By this Amendment, the applicant's have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5.

Claim 1 has been objected to due to informalities. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. By this amendment, claim 31 has been cancelled, thus, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by *Moriama et al.* (JP 06165670A). Also, claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moriama et al.* in view of ATTC (1992). The applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention; however, as noted above, claim 1 has now been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, thus rendering moot these grounds for rejection.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Saliwanchik

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 31,794

Phone: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: 2421 N.W. 41st Street, Suite A-1  
Gainesville, FL 32606-6669

DRS/la

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